

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 152340

FOR RICHARD HOLBROOKE ONLY

FOL TEL SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO TOKYO MOSCOW HONG KONG
PEKING CINCPAC FROM SEOUL DTD 30 JUN 1977 QTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 5482
CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: KS, US
SUBJECT: ROK REACTION TO SECRETARY VANCE'S JUNE 29 SPEECH

REF: SEOUL 5426 (NOTAL) (DTG 290911Z JUN)

SUMMARY: ROK PRESS HEADLINES SECRETARY'S SPEECH. TENTATIVE
ROKG REACTION CAUTIOUSLY FAVORABLE. MOFA LUKEWAR. END
SUMMARY.

1. ALL ROK AFTERNOON PAPERS JUNE 30 EXCEPT ONE HEADLINED
SECRETARY VANCE'S SPEECH JUNE 29 BEFORE ASIAN SOCIETY.
HEADLINES STRESSED U.S. CALL FOR FOUR POWER NEGOTIATIONS ON
KOREA FUTURE AND U.S. WILLINGNESS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS
WITH NORTH KOREA PROVIDED SOVEITS AND PRC RECIPORCATE TOWARD
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ROK.

2. VANCE SPEECH HAS TENDED TO OVERSHADOW HAPDONG STORY
CONCERNING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HOLBROOKE'S REMARKS BEFORE
EDITORS AND BROADCASTERS CONFERENCE (REFTEL). ONLY
EDITORIAL WE HAVE SEEN ON HOLBROOKE'S SPEECH THUS FAR
APPEARED IN CHUNGANG ILBO, WHICH POINTED OUT U.S. ALONE

COULD NOT BRING ABOUT SETTLEMENT OF KOREAN PROBLEM.

3. FIRST OFFICIAL REACTION TO VANCE SPEECH CAME FROM AMERICAN BUREAU DIRECTOR PARK SANG-YANG WHO TOLD POLCOUNS MOFA WILL BE ISSUING "BRIEF STATEMENT" JULY 1 WELCOMING SECRETARY'S SPEECH AND URGING OTHER SIDE TO RESPOND FAVORABLY TO ROK-US JOINT NEGOTIATIONS PROPOSALS WHICH SECRETARY REITERATED. IN LUKEWARM PRIVATE COMMENT TO POLCOUNS, PARK SAID MOFA DID WELCOME SPEECH; HOWEVER, HE HAD A RESERVATION OR TWO: AS SEVERAL PEOPLE IN MOFA HAD COMMENTED, A STRONGER WARNING TO NORTH NOT TO MISCONSTRUE U.S. DETERMINATION TO SUPPORT SECURITY COMMITMENT WOULD HAVE BEEN PREFERRED. HE ALSO COMMENTED THAT "SECRETARY SEEMS TO HAVE NORTH KOREA VERY MUCH IN MIND SINCE REFERENCE TO NORTH WAS REPEATED SEVERAL TIMES." PARK THEN REPEATED THAT MOFA WOULD ISSUE STATEMENT WELCOMING SPEECH TOMORROW. NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION I CHIEF YI SUN GON WHO DRAFTED STATEMENT WHICH WILL BE ISSUED BY MOFA TOMORROW SAID STATEMENT WILL PROBABLY WELCOME U.S. DEFENSE COMMITMENT REAFFIRMATION AND EFFORT TO ESTABLISH PEACE ON KOREAN PENINSULA. EMBASSY HAS GIVEN SPEECH WIDE DISTRIBUTION TO KOREAN LEADERS BUT AS YET HAD HAD NO OTHER REACTION.

4. ONLY NEWSPAPER REACTION HAS BEEN IN VERY BRIEF POLITICAL COMMENT COLUMN IN CHUNG-ANG ILBO WHICH NOTED THAT SECRETARY VANCE'S PROPOSALS DID NOT DIFFER FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER'S
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EXCEPT THAT VANCE SPEECH MUST BE VIEWED IN LIGHT OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL PROPOSALS. SIMILARITY HAS BEEN NOTED IN SEVERAL RADIO COMMENTARIES AS WELL.
SNEIDER UNQTE VANCE

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